

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 3, 4 and 13 without prejudice to or disclaimer of their subject matter.

Please AMEND claims 1, 5, 7 and 9, and ADD claim 34, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus which supplies a sheet in a supplying direction ~~to be recorded by recording means~~, said apparatus comprising:

a first stacking portion ~~for holding first sheets therein, said first stacking portion including a pressure plate on which the first sheets are stacked~~ on which first sheets are stacked;

a second stacking portion ~~for holding second sheets therein, said second stacking portion arranged detachable from and attachable to said first stacking portion, and said second stacking portion including a tray on which the second sheets are stacked and a base member for supporting the tray movable between a supplying position and a release position, wherein the second stacking portion receives component force of the gravity at least in the supplying direction~~; and

a supplying roller that supplies the first sheet ~~held by~~ stacked on said first stacking portion, or the second sheet ~~held by~~ stacked on said second stacking portion in the supplying direction,

wherein when the tray is positioned at the release position, ~~the pressure plate pushes up the first sheet held by said first stacking portion so that~~ said supplying roller is able to supply the first sheet ~~held by~~ stacked on said first stacking portion, while when the tray is positioned at the supplying position, ~~the pressure plate pushes up the tray so that~~ the supplying

roller can contact with the second sheet stacked on the tray to supply the second sheet stacked on the tray [[.]] , and

wherein said second stacking portion includes a blocking means, the blocking means abuts on the end portion of the second sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction to prevent the second sheets from coming off the second stacking portion when the tray is positioned at the release position, and the blocking means separates from the end portion of the second sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction when the tray moves to the supplying position, and opens a sheet supplying route from said second stacking portion.

2. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the tray moves to the supplying position, said second stacking portion is locked so that said second stacking portion can not be released from said first stacking portion, and when the tray moves to the release position, said second stacking portion is detachable/attachable from and to the first stacking portion.

3-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1 [[4]], wherein when the tray moves to the supplying position, an abutting portion of said blocking lever, which abuts on the end portion of a sheet on the second sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction, separates from an abutting portion of said first stacking portion, which abuts on the end portion of the first sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction, and

when said supplying roller supplies the second sheet on said second stacking portion, an operation of said blocking lever is regulated by a regulating portion provided on said first stacking portion, thereby opening the sheet supplying route from said second stacking portion.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1 [[3]], wherein the abutting portion of said blocking lever, which abuts on the end portion of the second sheet on the downstream side in the supplying direction, includes a guide member for guiding respectively upper and lower sides, in the sheet stacking direction, of a sheet stacked on said second stacking portion when the tray moves to the release position, towards the inside of the abutting portion of said blocking lever.

8. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said guide member is configured in a shape protruding on the upstream side at least in the sheet supplying direction at the upper and lower portions, in the sheet stacking direction, of the abutting portion of said blocking lever.

9. (Currently Amended) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1 [[3]], wherein said base member of said second stacking portion includes a cover member for

covering the surface of a sheet stacked on said second stacking portion when the tray moves to the release position, and

said cover member serves as regulating means for regulating the upper side of a sheet in the sheet stacking direction within an abutting range on the abutting portion of said blocking lever.

10. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said cover member separates from said second stacking portion when the tray moves to the supplying position.

11. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said second stacking portion includes a regulating member for regulating the lower side of the sheet in the sheet stacking direction, and

said regulating member is provided in the vicinity of said blocking lever and is overlapped with said guide member of said blocking lever in the sheet supplying direction.

12-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said base member of said second stacking portion is provided with an index at a portion in which the end portion of the sheet is positioned when stacking a sheet on said first stacking portion.

15-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said second stacking portion is provided with a cover member that opens and closes when taking the sheet in and out and a sub cover member interlocking with the opening/closing of said cover member, on the upstream side of said second stacking portion in the sheet supplying direction.

19-32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) A sheet supplying apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the tray is positioned at the supplying position, the pressure plate pushes up the tray together with the first sheet stacked on the pressure plate.

34. (New) A sheet supplying apparatus which supplies a sheet to be recorded by recording means, said apparatus comprising:

a first stacking portion on which first sheets are stacked;

a second stacking portion including a tray on which the second sheets are stacked and a base member for supporting the tray movable between a supplying position and a release position;

a supplying roller that supplies the first sheet stacked on said first stacking portion, or the second sheet stacked on said second stacking portion; and

a sheet type discriminating sensor for discriminating a type of first sheet stacked on said first stacking portion or second sheet stacked on the tray,

wherein when the tray is positioned at the release position, said supplying roller is able to supply the first sheet stacked on said first stacking portion, while when the tray is positioned at the supplying position, the supplying roller can contact with the second sheet stacked on the tray to supply the second sheet stacked on the tray, and

wherein the sheet type discriminating sensor includes an inclined surface, and when the tray moves to the supplying position from the release position, the second sheets stacked on the tray abuts the inclined surface of the sheet type discriminating sensor so that the sheet type discriminating sensor moves up to ride on the second sheets to discriminating a type of the second sheets.